

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawings include changes to FIG. 1. The sheet containing FIGS. 1 and 2 replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 1 and 2. In FIG. 1, the legend "CONVENTIONAL ART" has been added.

REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 6, 10, 11, and 13 are the independent claims.

Claim 16 has been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Initially, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 1-15 are allowed. By the present Amendment, none of claims 1-15 have been amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-15 should remain allowed.

The Office Action objected to FIG. 1 for not including a legend such as "PRIOR ART". In response, Applicant has amended FIG. 1 to include the legend "CONVENTIONAL ART". A replacement sheet is filed concurrently herewith.

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,678,226 (Horibata et al.). This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 16.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.


There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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